Private funding in coal sector

1120. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Coal had asked the Cabinet Secretariat to constitute a Group of Ministers to recommend private funding in coal sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted on 11.12.2000 to look into various issues of coal sector including the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000. The Bill seeks to allow commercial mining of coal by all Indian companies without the restriction of captive use. With the installation of a new Government at the Centre, the GoM ceased to exist. In this regard, the Cabinet Secretariat has been requested on 30.5.2005 to reconstitute the GoM.

Sale of high grade coal at less price

†1121. SHRI DARASINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in connivance with some officers, high grade coal is being sold from the coal mines of NCL, Singrauli by paying the price of low grade coal which cause losses of crores of rupees every year;

(b) whether Government would send a team soon to look into the matter in order to prevent illegal selling of coal worth Rs. 1800/- per ton for just Rs. 800/- per ton; and

(c) if so, by when this team would be sent to Singrauli for secret investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

Expansion projects of CIL

1122. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to augment coal supplies in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.